

62.17

1954

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
★ APR 28 1954 ★  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

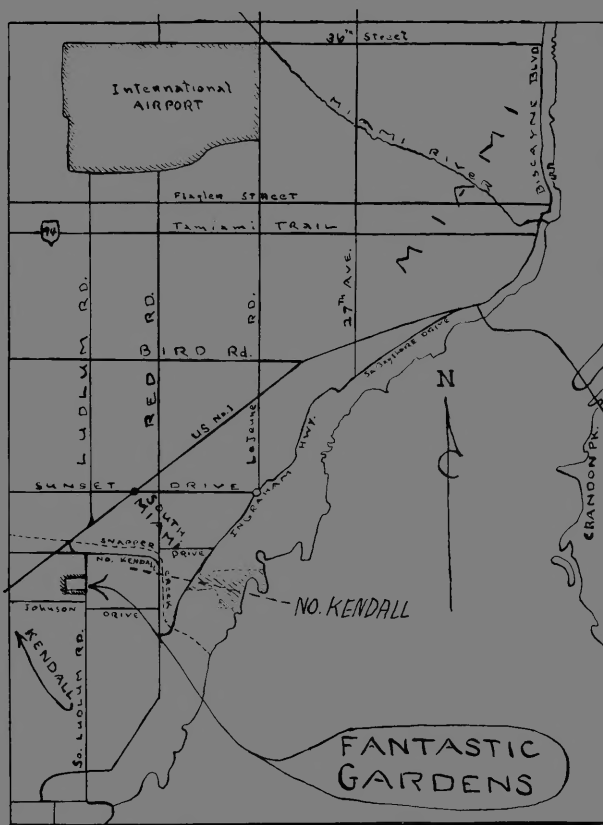
# Plantastic Gardens

1954

GESNERIAD  
RIS



We are closed all day Tuesday and Sunday mornings  
 till 1 P.M. Our daily open hours are from 9 A.M.  
 5:30 P.M.



# FANTASTIC GARDENS

---

R. G. WILSON

9550 S. W. 67th Avenue  
South Miami 43, Fla.

## GESNERIAD LIST 1954

---

The Gesneriads are the most satisfactory flowering house plants of the many families of tropical plants that we have had experience with. In addition to their unusual colorful flowers, most of them also have beautiful and very interesting foliage characters. For a family which a few years ago had only a few members in cultivation, today there is considerable variety and more coming to light almost daily. We can look forward to the future of this Gesneriad family with considerable certainty that there will be many new and wonderful forms produced by hybridization, surpassing those we now have. This year we have several new hybrids on trial and are working on some right now that have wonderful possibilities.

During the many years that this family was neglected by the horticulturists, a great many erroneous names were maintained in the limited collections that existed. We have in the past used names that have come to us with the plants and seeds, but feel that, now that Bailey's Hortorium has checked the nomenclature of the Gesneriads in cultivation, it is time to drop the old, erroneous names and use the correct ones. We realize that this is going to be quite confusing to many of you plant collectors but, for the sake of the future, we feel it to be to the benefit of all to ask you to correct your labels to agree with the new setup. You will find in parenthesis throughout our list the name we used previously.

(Note: Bailey's Hortorium is this country's final authority on horticultural names.)

We have found it necessary this year to change our policy of prepaying shipments. With postal rates and express rates so much higher than they were, we prefer not to raise our prices (even though our growing costs are more too) but to ask you folks this year to forward part of the shipping costs with your order.

Our terms are cash with order; minimum order \$3.00. We ship by Parcel Post if postage is included with order, otherwise by Railway Express Collect. For postage please add 10% of order, minimum postage 60¢.

We will ship by Prepaid Express on orders of \$25.00 or more. Express packages are handled more carefully than in the mails and any claim for goods damaged in shipment is taken care of by the company.

We have found that the Special Delivery service of the U. S. mails is a good method for live plants, and we strongly recommend it. If you wish this service, please add 45¢ to your order.

Air mail is, of course, the most satisfactory method, but it is expensive, up to 80¢ per pound and a two pound package would be a minimum shipment. Please estimate the amount of the air mail postage and add to your order. Up to three plants usually weigh 2 lbs; 4 to 15 plants - 2 to 10 lbs; and over 15 plants over 10 lbs.

We do not ship except during our shipping season which is between May 1st and September 30th, as these tropical plants are very tender to cold. Please do not ask us to make exceptions.

In most cases the plants we ship are out of 2½" pots. In some cases, where the plant is a large grower, they are from 3" and occasionally 4" pots. You should be prepared when receiving shipment to plant them in a larger container. Certain of these plants rest after flowering, and if your order arrives when they are dormant, we will supply bulbs or tubers.

## EPISCIA

Episcias are very tender plants, all of which have beautiful foliage and most have brilliant scarlet flowers. They are trailing plants and make beautiful hanging baskets. We have found that by pinching off the runners, a beautiful specimen crown can be developed and the plants will flower much more freely. Keep from cold drafts as Episcias "freeze" at 55° F.

### Red-flowered varieties:

- Episcia Acajou - very broad fern-pattern of silvery green on a dark mahogany background. \$1.00
- Episcia Chocolate Soldier - leaf very dark chocolate with narrow silver midrib. \$1.00
- Episcia fulgida (coccinea) - "Red Flame Violet" large brown leaves with bright silvery-green veins .75
- Episcia Silver Sheen - leaves bright silver with darker margins \$1.00
- Episcia Viridifolia - smooth Nile green leaves; best bloomer .75
- Episcia Emerald Queen - hairy, emerald green leaves with narrow silver mid-rib and veins \$1.00
- Episcia Frosty - frosted, downy, emerald green leaves with wide silver midrib \$1.00
- Episcia Harlequin - smooth, shiny leaves, very dark brown edges contrasted with central pattern of greenish white .75
- Episcia Sylvan Beauty - smooth silvery-green leaves with medium brown margins .75
- Episcia Splendens - a very pretty robust grower with broad silver markings on an emerald green background .75

### Blue-flowered varieties:

- Episcia lilacina "Var. Fanny Haage" - Although this is the original botanical *Episcia lilacina*, it will probably always be known horticulturally as variety Fanny Haage, so we are carrying it under this name same as last year. Very beautiful foliage with broad pattern of green, large blue flowers in spring and summer. \$1.25

*Episcia lilacina*, bronze-leaf variety - large bronzy hairy leaves with large blue flowers \$1.00  
*Episcia lilacina*, green leaf variety - carried in the past erroneously as *Episcia chontalensis*. Small dark green leaves, same flowers as above, shy bloomer. .75

White-flowered varieties:

*Episcia dianthiflora* - this is a brand new introduction (botanically as well as horticulturally) from central Mexico. Dr. Moore of Bailey's Hortorium is naming it *dianthiflora* because of the deeply fringed margins of the petals that is typical of some of the *dianthus* (pinks). The plant makes a miniature rosette of light green pubescent leaves and flowers freely in late winter and spring. Only available after July 1st \$2.00

*Episcia punctata* (syn. *Drymonia mollis*) - Leaves green, flowers light cream spotted with maroon .75

Yellow-flowered variety:

See *Nautilocalyx bullata*

SPECIAL: An *Episcia fulgida* (*E. coccinea*) with leaves variegated with a clear pink. This makes a most outstanding plant. Only 5 plants available. each \$10.00

Collection of 10 varieties of *Episcias*, our selection labeled \$6.50

AESCHYNANTHUS (Trichosporum) - A genus of trailing epiphytic plants from the Asiatic tropics, mostly with firm, glossy leaves and showy flowers in orange or red. (For culture see page 10.)

Aeschynanthus lobbians (Trichosporum pulchrum) -  
leaves very dark green, scarlet flowers growing  
out of dark purple cups. Large plant \$1.50  
Small plants after July 1st 1.00  
Aeschynanthus marmoratus (Trichosporum marmoratum) -  
light green leaves mottled on top with darker  
green and underneath with maroon .75  
Aeschynanthus speciosus (Trichosporum splendens) -  
hard waxy green leaves, brilliant orange flowers  
on tips of branches. .75

ALLOPLECTUS capitatus - large, erect growing, leaves  
to one foot long, velvety green. Flowers imbedded  
in showy red bracts in dense clusters. \$2.50



## COLUMNEA

These are epiphytic jungle plants with brilliant flowers and mostly of trailing habit. Make wonderful hanging basket plants. (See notes on Culture page 10)

- Columnnea Alleni* - trailing plant with small, smooth sharply pointed leaves and large red flowers.  
Available after Aug. 1st                      small plant \$2.00
- Columnnea Banksii* (hybrid) - small dark green glossy leaves, reddish underneath; flowers russet-orange, shy bloomer    .75
- Columnnea gloriosa* - trailing stems to five feet long; small hairy brownish leaves, large fiery red tubular flowers    \$1.50
- Columnnea hirta* - leaves and stems densely covered with reddish hairs; flowers vermillion, smaller flowers than *C. gloriosa* but more floriferous.    \$1.50
- Columnnea linearis* - Pink-flowered *Columnnea* - a bushy plant with narrow ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3") leaves and downy, clear pink tubular flowers.    \$1.50
- Columnnea microphylla* - soft trailing plant with tiny (about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ") round hairy leaves and bright orange scarlet flowers said to be as big and colorful as *C. gloriosa*. Available after July 1st.    \$2.00
- Columnnea nicaraguensis* (*C. localis*) - stiff trailer; large green leaves; flowers large, scarlet, like *C. gloriosa*, profuse bloomer.    \$1.50
- Columnnea tulae* "Flava" - soft green leaves, clear yellow tubular flowers; fruit round, snow white    \$1.00



CYRTANDRA coccinea - related to Aeschynanthus, but probably bushy in habit. This is a new plant with us and has not flowered yet. Available after July 1st. \$2.50

DIASTEMA sp. - this is a very compact plant with small dark green leaves and tiny narrow-mouthed, tubular bluish-lavender flowers, blooms freely, has scaly tubers \$1.25

DIDYMOCARPUS barbata - allied to Chirita. This is a new introduction. The seedlings have not flowered for us, but it should prove to be a worthwhile introduction. \$1.50

DRYMONIA mollis - See Episcia punctata

GESNERIA macrantha - See Rechsteineria cardinalis

Gesneria lindeni - See Kohleria lindeniana

GLOXINIA perennis - This is a true Gloxinia species (not Sinningia). Tall growing with large leaves and downy light blue flowers like Canterbury Bells. Has scaly tubers like Achimenes. \$1.25

HYPOCYRTA nummularia - a small compact trailing plant with 1" leaves, small red and yellow flowers.  
Large plant \$1.50  
Small plant after July 1st .75

KOHLERIA - This genus now includes Isoloma, Tydea, Gesneria lindeni, etc.

Kohleria amabile (K. seemanii, Isoloma amabile) - leaves light green overlaid with beautiful pattern of brown. Plant almost continuous bloomer when older with heavy sprays of pink flowers. Good basket plant. \$1.00

Kohleria amabile hybrid "Cecilia" (Isoloma Ceciliae) Compact habit, downy chocolate-colored leaves, flowers brilliant rose, very choice. \$1.50

Kohleria bogotensis hybrid (Isoloma pictus) - Plant trailing when older, interesting brownish leaves, flowers bright red.

Kohleria lindeniana (Gesneria lindeni) - beautifully veined velvety leaves, flowers blue and white .75

Kohleria sciadotydea hybrid (Tydea hybrid) - larger growing upright plant with downy leaves and maroon flowers. .75

NAEGELIA - See Smithiantha

NAUTILICALYX bullatus (Episcia tessellata) - We doubted that this could be a true Episcia as it is so different from the others. Upright growing plant with large glossy brown bubbly leaves and creamy-yellow flowers. A very unusual foliage plant. \$1.25

Nautilocalyx lynchii - Same growth habit as above, with shiny dark maroon leaves and creamy flowers, distinctive plant. \$2.50

Nautilocalyx sp. - These seedlings have not matured yet but the plants look quite interesting. Available after July 1st. \$2.50

RECHSTEINERIA cardinalis (Gesneria macrantha) - velvety emerald green leaves, cardinal red, tubular flowers. .75

SAINTPAULIA grotei - The true trailing African Violet,  
makes a beautiful hanging basket plant with its  
light blue flowers \$1.00

SINNINGIA speciosa - beautiful dark velvety leaves  
veined with white; dark purple slipper-type  
gloxinia flowers \$1.50

Sinningia eumorpha (Sinningia maximiliana) -  
Gloxinia-like plants with slipper-type white  
flowers, throat marked with purple or yellow \$1.00

### SMITHIANTHA

Better known under the name Naegelia. Besides  
having a bright display of nodding bells in  
brilliant colors, these plants have the most  
beautiful leaves imaginable. Shipped as bulbs  
in spring and early summer, then as plants.

Smithiantha cinnebarina - leaves like maroon velvet,  
flowers red \$1.50

Smithiantha Golden King - velvety mottled leaves,  
flowers deep golden yellow \$2.00

Smithiantha Rose Queen - leaves green, mottled with  
purple, flowers rose \$2.00

Smithiantha - yellow hybrids - mixed seedlings leaves  
all green or mottled, flowers in shades of yellow.  
\$1.00

Smithiantha zebrina - beautifully mottled velvety  
leaves, flowers orange spotted with red. \$1.00

Streptocarpus - mixed seedlings - large, strap-shaped  
leaves lying flat on the ground, flowers in shades  
of pink, blue or lavender. .75

TRICHOSPORUM - See Aeschynanthus

TYDEA - See Kohleria

## CULTURE OF GESNERIADS

In general, the culture of all Gesneriads is similar. They prefer a loose, sandy soil with plenty of half-rotted leafmold and fibrous peat with some fine charcoal added, and a small amount of dried sheep manure and bonemeal. Soil and pots must be sterile and free of nematodes. Put extra good drainage in the bottom of the pot. Some of them, Columneas and Trichosporums in particular, are epiphytic in habit and my best results have been obtained when I have grown them in shredded osmunda mixed with a smaller proportion of leafmold, making sure the drainage is perfect.

Most Gesneriads will develop water spots on the foliage from overhead watering with cold water when the air temperature is high. The rules for fertilizing African Violets hold true for these other relatives - liquid fertilizer applied about every two weeks during growth is sufficient.

The bulbous types, Kohleria, Gloxinia, Smithiantha, Sinningia, etc. take a rest after their blooming period is over and water should be applied only often enough to keep the bulbs from shrinking when they are dormant. A brighter light exposure than you have found best for African Violets will be just about right for most other Gesneriads.

Gesneriads make ideal house plants as they have such striking foliage plus beautiful flowers. They are also good greenhouse plants providing the temperature is kept above 60° F.

FANTASTIC GARDENS  
9550 S. W. 67th Avenue  
South Miami 43, Florida

Order	
Date	
Ack.	
Shpd.	

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Express Address if different from above:

Ship by: Parcel Post.....( ) Rwy. Exp. Collect.....( )  
Special Delivery.....( ) Air Exp. Collect.....( )  
Air Mail.....( )

[illegible]

Minimum order, \$3.00. Postage Extra - 10% of order,  
minimum 60¢.

If sold out of a variety may we substitute one similar YES ( ) NO ( )

---

TOTAL	100
-------	-----



We want you to receive your shipment in the best of condition and we take all possible precautions to ship healthy plants packed in such a way as to avoid any damage in transit. We have had so many customers tell us how perfect the plants look on arrival, that we are satisfied that our method of packing is hard to improve upon. We feel that our responsibility is ended when we deliver your package to the carrier. But, as mistakes can happen, if on arrival your plants seem damaged because you believe there was some mistake made in packing (not damage due to mishandling or delay by the carrier) write us full details and we will be glad to make proper adjustment if we feel the fault was ours. Most damage is caused by mishandling or delay in transit, and if your order was sent by Railway Express (not mail) your Express Agent will help you get an adjustment.

Address all correspondence to Fantastic Gardens, 9550 S.W. 67th Avenue, South Miami 43, Fla. Our correspondence is very heavy and, although we love to talk plants and horticultural problems with people, we are now so completely occupied with business matters that we just haven't the time, so please be very direct when writing us. We are not prepared to answer questions pertaining to (or to ship) plants that are not listed. This list cancels all previous lists of Gesneriads.



FANTASTIC GARDENS  
9550 S. W. 67TH AVENUE  
SOUTH MIAMI 43, FLA.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

U. S. DEPT. of AGRICULTURE  
LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON 25 D. C. 51